

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1943

C 178 L 24
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Modifying the Washington national guard postsecondary education grant program.

Sponsors: Representatives Leavitt, Jacobsen, Ryu, Rule, Christian, Couture, Bronoske, Slatter, Chambers, Reeves, Reed, Graham, Timmons, Orwall, Paul, Riccelli and Shavers.

House Committee on Postsecondary Education & Workforce
House Committee on Appropriations
Senate Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Background:

The Washington National Guard Postsecondary Education Grant Program (Program), formerly the National Guard Conditional Scholarship Program, is administered by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (Office). The Office selects participants with the assistance of the Washington Military Department. To be eligible for the Program, an active drilling member of the Washington National Guard (Guard) who is in good standing must:

- attend an institution of higher education located in the state and accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges or an institution in the state that provides approved training under the Montgomery GI Bill;
- be enrolled in courses or a program that lead to a postsecondary degree or certificate;
- submit an application for student aid approved by the Office;
- be a resident student; and
- meet any additional selection criteria adopted by the Office.

Participants receive grants to help pay for postsecondary education program costs for up to five years or 125 percent of the published length of the program, or the credit or clock-hour equivalent. Participants incur an obligation to repay the grant, with interest, unless they serve in the Guard for one year for each year they received the grant. Grants may not result

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in a reduction of federal or other state financial aid and may not exceed:

- the cost of attendance when combined with all other public and private grants, scholarships, and waiver assistance;
- the maximum Washington College Grant, plus \$500 for books and supplies; or
- the annual cost of undergraduate tuition fees and services and activities fees at the University of Washington, plus an allowance for books and supplies.

Summary:

Eligible participants are expanded to include the spouse or dependents of a Guard member. The Guard member must designate the Guard member's spouse or dependents and agree to fulfill his or her service obligation. A dependent is defined as a person enrolled as a dependent in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. To be eligible for the Program, a designated spouse or dependent must:

- attend an institution of higher education located in the state and accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges or an institution in the state that provides approved training under the Montgomery GI Bill;
- be enrolled in courses or a program that leads to a postsecondary degree or certificate;
- submit an application for student aid approved by the Office;
- be a resident student; and
- meet any additional selection criteria adopted by the Office.

Guard members incur an obligation to repay the grant, with interest, unless they serve in the Guard for one year for each year they or their spouse or dependents received the grant. Grant eligibility for a Guard member and the Guard member's spouse or dependents combined is extended to a maximum of six years or 150 percent of the published length of the program in which the participant is enrolled or the credit or clock-hour equivalent. The Guard member, the Guard member's spouse, or their dependents may use the grant simultaneously. The Office must adopt rules for an appeals process for Guard members who do not satisfy their service obligations under the Program.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	97	0	
Senate	49	0	(Senate amended)
House	96	0	(House concurred)

Effective: June 6, 2024